1992

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the department for Enterprise

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Regional Policy

Review of the Assisted Areas of Great Britain

Consultation paper issued jointly by

The Department of Trade and Industry

The Scottish Office

The Welsh Office

The Assisted Areas map defines those areas of Great Britain where regional industrial incentives operated by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Scottish Office and the Welsh Office are available. The main regional incentives are Regional Selective Assistance and Regional Enterprise Grants.

The current map (see page 3) has been in place since 1984. In a written Parliamentary answer on 9 June 1992 the Government announced that they will now undertake a review, including a period of public consultation, with the aim of implementing a revised map **early in 1993**, following the necessary clearance with the European Commission.

This document gives an indication of the criteria which will be relevant in determining the new map and the arrangements for consultation.

European Community Structural Funds

The Assisted Areas map is separate from the various maps defining areas eligible for support from the European Community Structural Funds. Representations about changes in the area eligibility for Structural Funds grants should not therefore be made as part of this consultation procedure. Separate arrangements will be made for such representations at the appropriate time in accordance with Community regulations.

Structure of the map

The revised map will, as now, have two tiers - Development and Intermediate areas. It will be based on existing Travel-To-Work-Areas (which are broad approximations of self-contained labour markets) as it will be two years or more before new TTWAs are defined using the data from the 1991 census.

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Criteria for Designation

The legal basis for designating Assisted Areas is Section 1 of the Industrial Development Act 1982. Ministers are required to have regard to "all the circumstances actual and expected, including the state of employment and unemployment, population changes, migration and the objectives of regional policies."

The broad objectives of the Government's regional policy will continue to be to reduce regional imbalances in employment opportunities and to encourage the development of indigenous potential within the Assisted Areas on a stable long-term basis.

Statistical measures of unemployment will, therefore, be the major components in the review. Current rates of unemployment, the persistence of unemployment rates above the national average over recent years and the proportion of long-term unemployed in the local workforce will be considered. Among other factors which will be examined are: the likely future demand for jobs in an area (taking account of the growth/decline in local industries and demographic changes); other measures of economic performance; activity rates; inner city and urban problems (although it is recognised that these are mainly addressed by other policy instruments); and peripherality (distance from markets). In certain areas major closures or rundowns known to be in prospect could have a severe impact, and these will need to be taken into account.

Coverage

The current map covered around 35% of the working population of Great Britain when it was designated in 1984. Development Areas covered 15%. This coverage had to be agreed with the European Commission as will the coverage of the new map.

It is unlikely that the coverage of the new map will be greater than now and it could be somewhat less. Local organisations considering making representations about their case for Assisted Area status should, therefore, consider whether, realistically, their area's position falls in the worst one-third of the country in terms of employment opportunities and structural difficulties.

Consultation arrangements

The problems and needs of all areas will be fully considered during the review whether or not representations are made on their behalf. Local authorities and other organisations wishing to make representations should send them (five copies, please) to the appropriate Regional Office of the Department of Trade and Industry, or to the Scottish Office or Welsh Office as appropriate. The addresses are given on page 4. The closing date for representations will be **30 September 1992**.

The three Departments conducting the review intend to make it possible for the public, on request, to see copies of representations received where the respondents are content that this should happen. Departments will assume that representations can be made publicly available in this way **unless respondents indicate** that they wish all, or part, of their documents to be excluded from this arrangement. In such cases confidentiality will be strictly respected. Contact points for anyone wishing to examine the representations received are set out on page 4.

9 June 1992

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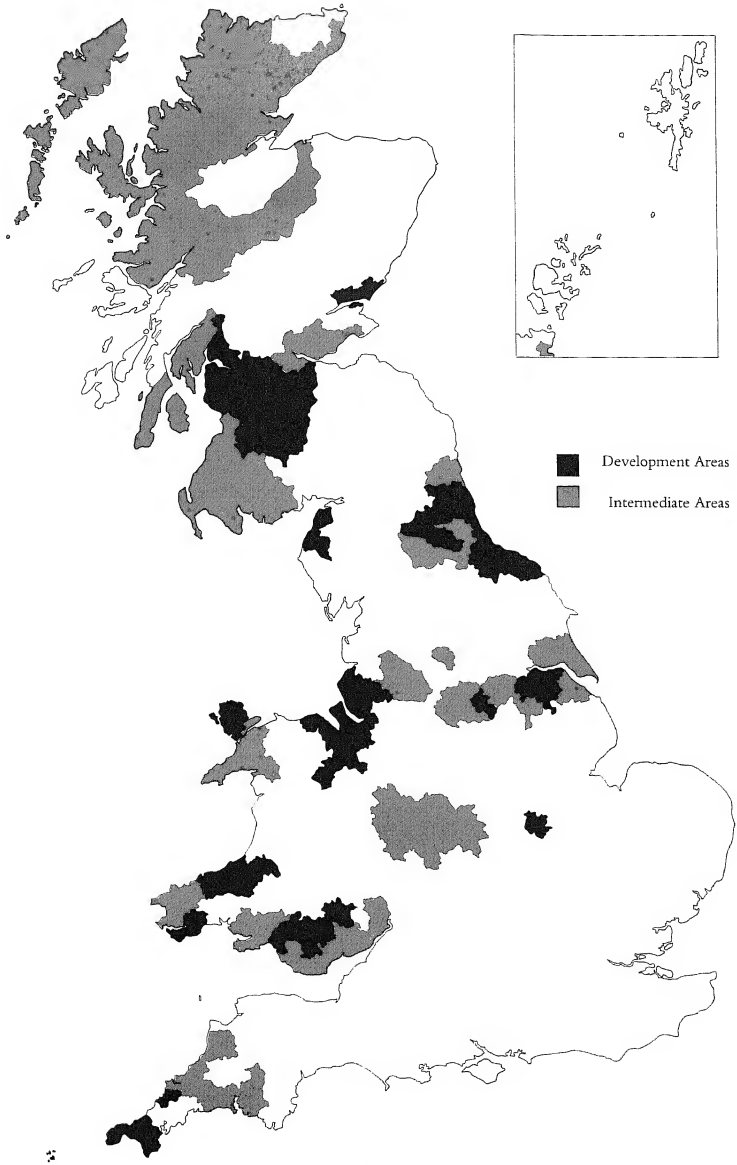

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Offices to which representations should be sent

Scotland

Mr J. Meldrum,
The Scottish Office
Industry Department,
Magnet House,
59 Waterloo Street,
Glasgow G2 7BT.

Telephone: 041-242 5681

Wales

Mr T. Harper,
ERP1,
Welsh Office,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff CF1 3NQ.

Telephone: 0222 823631

DTI North East

Mrs P. Denham,
The Regional Director,
Department of Trade and Industry,
Stanegate House,
2 Groat Market,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne
NE1 1YN.

Telephone: 091-235 7208

DTI North West

Mr J. Pownall,
The Regional Director,
Department of Trade and Industry,
Sunley Tower,
Piccadilly Plaza,
Manchester M1 4BA.

Telephone: 061-838 5441

DTI Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr E. Wright,
The Regional Director,
Department of Trade and Industry,
25 Queen Street,
Leeds LS1 2TW.

Telephone: 0532 338205

DTI East Midlands

Mr B. Anderson,
The Regional Director,
Department of Trade and Industry,
Severns House,
20 Middle Pavement,
Nottingham NG1 7DW.

Telephone: 0602 596324

DTI West Midlands

Mr S. Linstead,
The Regional Director,
Department of Trade and Industry,
77 Paradise Circus,
Queensway,
Birmingham B1 2DT.

Telephone: 021-212 5118

DTI South West

Mr B. Lodge,
The Regional Director,
Department of Trade and Industry,
The Pithay,
Bristol BS1 2PB.

Telephone: 0272 308457

DTI South East

Mr I. Jones,
The Regional Director,
Department of Trade and Industry,
Bridge Place,
88-89 Eccleston Square,
London SW1V 1PT.

Telephone: 071-215 0600

DTI East

Mr J. Hall,
The Regional Director,
Department of Trade and Industry,
Building A,
Westbrook Centre,
Milton Road,
Cambridge CB4 1YG.

Telephone: 0223 346716

Representations are available for viewing at:

Scotland

The above address, and by arrangement with:
The Librarian, Scottish Office, St. Andrews House, Edinburgh.

Wales

The above address.

Telephone:
0222 825005/825449

England

The above DTI regional offices, and by appointment with:
The DTI Victoria Street Library and Information Centre,
Room 101,
Ashdown House,
123 Victoria Street,
London SW1E 6RB

Telephone:
071-215 4245/4250

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